



## Special Events at Ozark National Scenic Riverways

Special events are activities, such as sporting events, pageants, regattas, public spectator attractions, entertainment, ceremonies, large group camps or rendezvous and may be permitted by the Superintendent when (1) there is a meaningful association between the park area and the event, and (2) the event will contribute to visitor understanding of the significance of the park area. The National Park Service intends that special events will not unreasonably interfere with the use of the park by the general public for activities involving enjoyment of park resources or values.

A Special Use Permit is required to hold a special event within Ozark National Scenic Riverways. The permit application fee is \$50.00 and is nonrefundable. Additional “cost recovery” fees may apply in cases where the park needs to provide extra services or staff to support the event. Proof of liability insurance may also be required. Until a Special Use Permit is approved and issued, the requested date and location cannot be guaranteed. If temporary food vending will be associated with the event, a separate Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) for Temporary Food Vending will need to be obtained in advance of the event. Follow the guidelines outlined below to ensure that all required permits are in place in time for your event.

**Locations:** Please indicate the specific location for the event on the application. The Special Use Permit does not allow your event to restrict other park visitors from your chosen location nor does it guarantee you a specific site.

If you desire a pavilion or group site you will need to make reservations at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or call (877) 444-6777.

**Applications:** Complete the *Application for Special Use Permit*. Mail the completed application along with the required application fee to: Ozark National Scenic Riverways, Attn: Commercial Services Program Office, P. O. Box 490, Van Buren, Missouri 63965.

**Permits:** If your application is approved, a Special Use Permit will be prepared and mailed to you for signature. Upon receipt, please review, sign and return the permit to our office for the Superintendent’s signature. After the Superintendent signs the permit, a copy of the permit will be forwarded to you. *The approved, signed permit copy must be in your possession at the time of the event.*

**Terms & Conditions:** Superintendents must ensure that appropriate permit conditions are imposed for special events. Permit conditions are intended to mitigate damage to park resources and values while ensuring that any necessary resource restoration and rehabilitation is completed. Additional permit conditions may apply based on the nature of your request. To maintain park natural and cultural resources and quality visitor experiences the following park specific restrictions and requirements apply to Special Use Permits for special events:

1. The permittee and participants will not disturb, adversely effect, alter, damage or remove any natural/cultural resources, archeological or historic artifacts. Digging, scraping, chiseling or defacing natural features is prohibited.
2. Structures, including arches, tents, stages and portable pavilions may not be used or erected.
3. Historical buildings or other structures may be used as backdrop only. Buildings cannot be used for attachments (such as banners) or be incorporated as a stage.

4. Access to the area must be kept open to the public and special events cannot interfere with normal visitor activity in any manner. The park will not exclude nor allow permittee to exclude other park visitors from the site during the event.
5. Special event activities may not be conducted on any public walkways. Set up and placement of permitted support equipment (i.e., tables, chairs, etc.) on public walkways is prohibited.
6. Admission fees or any other monies associated with the event will not be collected by the permittee on park premises.
7. Permittee shall keep the grounds of the premises in a clean and neat condition and shall maintain all structures and improvements in good repair. Upon termination of this permit, Permittee will be responsible for leaving any buildings and grounds completely free from any trash, litter or abandoned personal property. Failure to comply may result in cost recovery fees.
8. All vehicles (including motorcycles) for the event must be parked in designated parking areas. Carpooling is recommended; parking may be limited in some areas. Handicapped parking restrictions will be enforced.
9. Erecting of banners, signs, etc. is prohibited.
10. Electrical power will not be furnished nor will generators be allowed.
11. The use of a portable, battery operated sound system is acceptable as long as they meet the standards listed in 36 CFR 2.12(a)(1) and do not interfere with the use of the area by other individuals. No public address systems are allowed.
12. Ozark National Scenic Riverways Park Rangers strictly enforce all laws relating to excessive drinking. Permittee and guests must comply with all applicable federal, state, county and Park Service regulations.
13. Permittee agrees to allow for reasonable access by the National Park Service to the structures and grounds for the purpose of safety, health, or other inspections.
14. Ozark National Scenic Riverways retains the right to close any trail, river section or other areas during emergencies, government closures, floods, rainfall events exceeding 2 inches in a 24 hour period or other unforeseen situations.
15. Permittee is responsible for sharing the terms of the Special Use Permit with all participants of the permitted activity, and accepts responsibility for monitoring compliance with this permit.
16. Violation of the terms and conditions of the permit may result in the immediate revocation of the permit or denial of future permits.

Other stipulations may be added depending on the specific nature of your request.

If you have any questions about the application process or your permit or to obtain a Temporary Food Vending Application, please contact the Commercial Services Program Office at (573) 323-4864 or email: [peggy\\_tarrence@nps.gov](mailto:peggy_tarrence@nps.gov).

*August 2014*